8. **The Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness** (IMNCI) strategy encompasses a range of interventions to prevent and manage the commonest five major newborn and childhood conditions which cause death-sepsis, low birth weight, Acute Respiratory Infections, Diarrhoea, Measles, Malaria and Malnutrition. It focuses on preventive, promotive and curative aspects, *i.e.* it gives a holistic outlook to the programme by ensuring enhancement of the skills of health care personnel, strengthening the health system and creating community participation. The Government of India has accepted the IMNCI strategy as a superior intervention and incorporated it in the log frame of the second phase of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme. It shall be implemented in at least 125 districts of the country.

Overall in RCH, child health is seen as a continuum of maternal care and interventions for maternal and child health are inextricably interlinked in implementation. All the amenities are provided free of cost to the population through the public health sector.

Ban on sale of Non-iodised salt

1875. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to ban the sale of non-iodised salt in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the fresh order issued, if any, and the present status of its implementation;

(c) the details of consultations made, if any, with the medical fraternity, NGOs, etc. on the desirability or otherwise of the use of non-iodised salt; and

(d) a resume of the views expressed by the various experts/organizations, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) No, Sir. Vide notification GSR No. 670(E), dated 17.11.05, sale of non-iodised salt for human consumption only has been banned. Manufacture or sale of non-iodised salt for other purposes has not been banned.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The draft notification GSR 340(E) dated 27.5.05 elicited responses from NGOs' manufactures of Common Salt Scientists etc. The Ministry consulted scientists, NGOs, and examined in detail the diverse comments received from various sources on merit, through an expert Committee.

The Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS), a multi-stake holder body constituted under the PFA Act, to advise the Central Government on all matters arising out of implementation of PFA Act had examined the proposal for imposing restrictions on sale of common salt and for compulsory iodization of common salt for human consumption. The Committee also examined the draft notification issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare *vide* notification GSR 340(E) dated 27.05.2005 for inviting objections and suggestions in this regard and the Committee recommended finalization of this notification.

Iodine is a micronutrient which should be available in adequate quantity daily so as to prevent Iodine Deficiency Disease (IDD). Though it is true that the hilly regions are more affected but the plains region are also deficient in it. Salt iodization is the most rational approach to ensure prevention of IDD. Salt iodization is essential also to ensure freedom from preventable brain damage.

Malpractices In medical institutions

1876. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to get the permission of the Medical Council of India, at the time of inspection, some medical colleges are showing teaching staff who originally belongs to some other medical colleges;

(b) whether the officials of the Medical Council of India are involved in this; and

(c) whether Government are simplifying the procedure regarding obtaining permission to start medical colleges in the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) While considering inspection reports of various medical